

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 AID-05 EB-08 DEAE-00 L-03  
JUSE-00 /036 W  
-----058079 190553Z /17  
R 181357Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9597

UNCLAS MEXICO 06302

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - BELL CONTRACT AID/LA-C-1084

REF: STATE 95172

1. EMBASSY IS PUZZLED BY REFTEL, WHICH REQUESTS "IM-MEDIATE EMBASSY CONCURRENCE" TO PERMIT EARLY OBLIGATION OF \$245,000 TO COVER BELL OVERRUNS ON REPAIR OF TWO HELICOPTERS. BEFORE CONCURRING, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING SOURCE OF FUNDS. THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER EMBASSY CONCURRENCE IS REQUIRED. ON JULY 1977 AID DECREASED THE FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR THIS CONTRACT BY \$325,000, ADVISING THE EMBASSY OF ITS ACTION IN 77 STATE 175029, DATED 27 JULY 1977. ON 13 OCTOBER 1977, AID DECREASED THE FUNDING AVAILABLE BY AN ADDITIONAL \$36,858.77, ADVISING EMBASSY BY COPY OF DEOBLIGATION DOCUMENT. EMBASSY CONCURRENCE WAS NOT SOUGHT IN EITHER INSTANCE. ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN EMBASSY LEARNED THAT AID WAS PLANNING \$325,000 REDUCTION, WE IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED CONTRACT OFFICER ON 19 JULY 1977, ARGUED AGAINST REDUCTION, AND WERE ASSURED THAT FUNDING WOULD NOT BE REDUCED.

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2. RATIONALE FOR FUNDING INCREASE AS EXPRESSED BY BELL (REFTEL) STRIKES US AS, AT BEST, POOR MANAGEMENT BY BELL. THAT THE AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CANNIBALIZED, WE DO NOT QUESTION. HOWEVER, AIRCRAFT BEING REPAIRED BY RAMAPO ARRIVED AT THEIR FACILITY ON 19 NOVEMBER 1976; SEVENTEEN MONTHS TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR PARTS VALUED

AT AN ADDITIONAL \$135,000 SEEMS EXCESSIVE. SIMILARLY, THE AIRCRAFT REPAIRED BY SOUTHWEST VERTALL ARRIVED AT THEIR FACILITY ON 27 JANUARY 1977 AND WAS RETURNED TO MEXICO ON 16 FEBRUARY 1978, DURING WHICH TIME BELL MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO DETERMINE THE COST OF THE PARTS REQUIRED TO REPAIR IT.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT BELL FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THE REPAIR OF THESE AIRCRAFT WAS LESS THAN SATISFACTORY, RESULTING IN A VISIT BY OUR MAINTENANCE ADVISER TO BOTH REPAIR FACILITIES IN NOVEMBER 1977 TO COORDINATE THE DETERMINATION OF WHAT PARTS WERE REQUIRED AND TO EXPEDITE REPAIRS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR MEXICO IN FY-1978 ARE FULLY PROGRAMMED, AND SOME AREAS HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO MEET NEED TO FUND ADVANCED ILLICIT CROP DETECTION SYSTEM. UNLESS DEPARTMENT CAN FREE UP FUNDS FROM OTHER PROGRAMS, WE SUGGEST DEFERRING PAYMENT TO BELL UNTIL FY-1979 FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, CONTRACTS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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